



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **EXPO CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY AGREES TO FULLY COOPERATE WITH METRO INSPECTOR GENERAL**

*Result of Ridley-Thomas's Call for Independent Oversight of Expo Line Construction*

**Los Angeles**—The Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority today unanimously adopted a motion by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas to cooperate fully with the Metro Office of the Inspector General, in order to prevent future cost overruns on the Expo Line construction project. In response to Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas's advocacy for independent oversight of the Expo Rail Line construction project, the Metro Office of the Inspector General has begun monitoring the expenditure of public funds related to both Phase One and Phase Two of the project.

"With Phase One of the Expo project already over-budget by some \$400 million and work just beginning on Phase Two, the Expo Construction Authority has wisely agreed to cooperate fully with Metro's Inspector General to prevent further cost overruns and, more importantly, to maintain the public's trust."

In September of this year, Supervisor Ridley-Thomas requested that the Metro Inspector General investigate the feasibility of establishing a full-time, independent Inspector General position for the Expo Line construction project. In

a report submitted to the Expo Construction Authority today, the Metro Inspector General explained that her office currently has “ample authority to conduct investigations, reviews, and audits or related work in connection with Expo.”

With the Metro Inspector General’s investigative authority over the Expo project now confirmed, the Expo Construction Authority today adopted Supervisor Ridley-Thomas’s motion to instruct its staff and contractors to cooperate fully with the Inspector General’s office in any future review.

“The Expo Construction Authority is entrusted to manage vast sums of public money. Surely the Los Angeles County voters who had the vision to approve \$40 billion in Measure R funding would want us to ensure that every dollar is being spent as responsibly as possible,” added Supervisor Ridley-Thomas.

Phase One of the Expo Line was originally budgeted at \$640 million and is now on track to cost nearly \$1 billion. Phase Two is budgeted at \$1.5 billion.

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